

the amount of compression of the foetal head must be three lines more in consequence of unnecessary thickness of this edge of the instrument.

"One of the difficulties in the application of the forceps consists in uniting the blades after they have been carried to the requisite height. In the instrument represented, this end is greatly facilitated, slightly lessening the weight at the same time, by cutting away the abrupt shoulders to the mortise, into which the screw easily glides, whenever it gets within these inclined planes."

"It adds but slightly to the weight of the instrument to increase the length of the handle, and bend it so as to form a blunt hook, and may be a source of considerable convenience. A very good perforator may be inserted into the extremity of one handle, and a sharp hook into the other, and though they may not be of the most approved patterns, they answer very well, should the work of destruction become unavoidable. This arrangement is more important in country than city practice, as one instrument is much more portable as well as more economical than four."

"It has been suggested that roughening the centre of the handle must render it liable, when used as a hook or perforator, to irritate the soft parts of the mother. But no operator, I apprehend, would ever use it for this purpose, if smooth, without carrying his finger up beside it. Being careful then to oppose the centre of the roughened side to the hand, would effectually protect the woman from injury, and obviate the objection."

Dr. White does not present the described instrument as one insusceptible of improvement. The claims he advances in its favour are, that it can be used with much greater ease and safety than those to be found in the shops of the cutlers in his vicinity; that it is very light; that it may be applied at the brim, in the cavity, or at the outlet of the pelvis, by simply varying the direction of the handles; and that it is less likely to do injury to the child and maternal organs than those in common use.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXIII.—*A Practical Treatise on Inflammation of the Uterus and its Appendages, and on Ulceration and Induration of the Neck of the Uterus.* By JAMES HENRY BENNET, M. D., Member of the Royal College of Physicians; Physician-Accoucheur to the Western General Dispensary; formerly, House Physician (by concours) to the Hospitals Saint Louis, Notre Dame de la Pitié, and La Salpêtrière, Paris. Second American, from the second London edition. Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard, 1850: 8vo. pp. 355.

THE favourable opinion of the views advanced by Dr. Bennet in relation to the more frequent diseases of the uterus, their diagnosis, and treatment, expressed by us in our notice of the first edition of his treatise, has been strengthened and confirmed by the results subsequently derived from our own experience. His observations have unquestionably been the means of throwing much light upon the pathology of what were previously considered as obscure and intractable uterine affections, and by insisting upon the use of the speculum as the only certain means of diagnosis in these diseases, he has greatly facilitated their study, and rendered an acquaintance with their phenomena and phases more familiar to the mass of the profession, while, at the same time, he has rendered their management less empirical, and its results more certain and satisfactory.

Although, as Dr. Bennet remarks in the preface, nominally a second edition, the present is in reality a new work. It will be found to contain, not only a faithful history of the various pathological changes produced by inflammation in the uterus and its annexed organs in the different phases of female life, but also an accurate analysis of the influence exercised by inflammation in the production of the various morbid conditions of the uterine system, hitherto described and treated as functional.

"Guided," observes the author, "by the clinical observation of the last twelve years—during which period I have constantly studied uterine disease in wide fields, and with the advantage of more accurate means of investigation than

those generally employed—I have endeavoured to demonstrate the important fact, that inflammation is the keystone to uterine pathology, and that, unless the phenomena which it occasions be recognized and taken into consideration, all is doubt, obscurity, and deception.

“The results at which I have arrived, and which are embodied in the present edition, are so diametrically opposed to the opinions current in the profession as reproduced by the most recent and the most classical writers on uterine pathology, that they must appear startling even to practitioners acquainted with the researches of continental inquiry in this important branch of medical science. So thoroughly subversive, indeed, are they of all existing views respecting uterine disease, that nothing but the facility with which they can be tested could inspire me with the hope that they will, ere long, be universally acknowledged.

“Since the first publication of my researches in uterine pathology, above four years ago, a marked change has taken place in the opinions of a large portion of the profession—a change which may fairly be attributed, in a great measure, to the influence exercised by my writings. Some of the most eminent uterine pathologists of the present day—amongst whom I may name Dr. Montgomery and Dr. Evory Kenneday—have since then openly advocated views similar to those which I entertained respecting the frequency of inflammatory affections of the neck of the uterus. Moreover, I am able to state, from positive knowledge, that the practice of nearly all the eminent consulting practitioners in this department of pathology has been greatly modified within that period, and it is but rational to infer that their theoretical opinions have undergone a similar change.

“In the present work, there is much that is original, and new to the profession, both abroad and at home. I would more especially direct attention to the history of chronic metritis, and of the displacements which it occasions, of late years so erroneously viewed—of internal metritis, hitherto confounded with disease of the cervical cavity—of inflammation and abscess of the lateral ligaments in the non-puerperal state, never, as yet, described by any author—of inflammation and ulceration in the cavity of the cervix—of inflammation and ulceration in the virgin, in the pregnant and puerperal condition, in the aged, and in connection with polypus and uterine tumours;—and to the section on the diagnosis of cancer. As the facts detailed in the chapters in which these subjects are discussed are, like those formerly advanced, solely deduced from clinical observation, I firmly believe that their accuracy will be likewise substantiated, in the course of time, by the unanimous verdict of the profession.”

We invite the physicians of this country to a careful study of the work of Dr. Bennet. We believe that the leading views advanced by the author are founded in truth, and lead to a simple and certain plan of treatment in a class of diseases the character of which has heretofore been much misunderstood, and the treatment of which has been most grievously mismanaged. Every chapter of the work is replete with instruction. The facts advanced by Dr. Bennet have evidently been the fruits of personal observation made in a wide and favourable field, and that by the test of repeated observations made by others their truthfulness will in time be fully established. The sufferings, privations, and mortification inflicted upon the female sex by diseases of the uterine organs, strongly press the study of these diseases upon the attention of the physician, and in that study we believe he can find no more faithful or efficient guide than is furnished him by Dr. Bennet in the work before us.

D. F. C.